**IT Applications, Unit 4**

**Security and ethical considerations, Ch 8, p 294**

**Emerging technologies, Cloud Computing, p 305**

**The advantages and disadvantages of using cloud computing for storing, communicating and disposing of data and information.**

**What is cloud computing?**

1. Provide a definition for cloud computing?

Cloud computing refers to the capacity for businesses to access convenient, up to date and on demand web applications that can be maintained with minimal effort and financial outlay provided that a decent internet connection is available.

**Implications for businesses**

1. Distinguish between the following types of clouds:
   1. Public cloud

A public cloud is used for businesses to access a web service via a third party who shares resources and costs on a utility basis. For example a cost per month to access the service or a watered down version for free.

* 1. Community cloud

A community cloud is when a group of organisations with similar needs share the infrastructure. An example may include a group of financial companies all wanting a higher security level or common policies.

* 1. Hybrid cloud

A hybrid cloud is when it is possible to access a number of services in both a public and community environment.

* 1. Private cloud

Private cloud takes advantage of all the strengths of a cloud environment but is tailored for the private client. For example it may have higher level of security

**Advantages and disadvantages of using cloud computing**

From the text and also from the Articles:

“Guide to cloud computing”

“Steven Levy on the Perils of Cloud Computing”

**Complete the following:**

**Advantages**

1. List the advantages of this type of computing.

Get rid of upfront capital outlay for hardware and software.

Scalable to needs, costs

Higher reliability and security than may be possible if personally manage the service

No more long backups and removal of the need for patching and managing as all handled by the cloud provider.

Increased mobility due to the ability to access content anywhere anytime (given either the client software installed or a web browser alternative)

Increased security (potentially) and reduced cost and effort as large scale use and specialist employed by the cloud service provider.

Service stored offsite hence if an issue arose the backup should be safe.

Lower staff effort, cost, time as others dealing with it.

Lower spec requirements for devices as most processing occurs on the the cloud server.

**Disadvantages**

1. List the disadvantages of cloud computing.

What are their reliability and cost to business if they went down paired to the criticalness of the data and composition

Does it meet the requirements under aus privacy laws and your own privacy policies.

What happens if data is lost (what backups do they have and what is the disaster recovery plan they have in place) or compromised. Will you receive compensation for this loss.

Firstly is it the right solution for you (though it should be is your internet strong enough, have you got a big enough data plan for large amounts of data movement) or is there to big a lag (especially if coming from overseas)

DOES your proposed cloud service provider allow for business use in its T&C’s, and likewise will there be any extra costs.

Does the standards and agreements used by cloud companies allow for you to change service providers for whatever reason it may be.

Does the service provider allow for scaling of the service or are you locked in.

Potentially may lose data and without your own personal backups this may result in PERMINANT loss.

Increased need for the use (and requirement by service) of strong passwords.

Requirement for redundant internet supplies/providers so that one a supply going down wont render you useless